

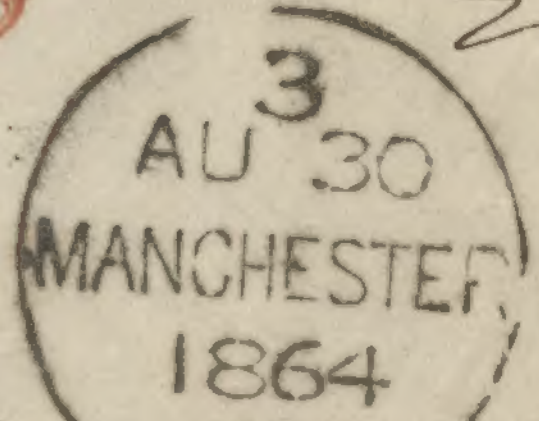
AL  
Mrs. H. Barker  
Manchester, Aug. 27,  
1864.



*Congradulation  
Sympathy*

*Mr. May & Greenough  
Boston  
Manchester  
U.S.A.*

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CENTS



Ms. A. 1. 2 v. 33, p. 86 A

LONDON  
JAN 31  
1864



God bless "Will" Lloyd Garrison!  
The friend of the distressed and  
oppressed!

Most intently, ~~earnestly~~ and  
affectionately have I watched  
your career, noted your  
heroic labors and sacrifices,  
and exulted in <sup>all</sup> the noble  
triumphs and glorious conquests  
you have been privileged to  
realize - so far beyond anything  
you could at one time have  
ventured to hope for or even  
dream of - as possible. <sup>God</sup> ~~Will~~  
may ~~still~~ <sup>you</sup> look back and  
look around, and say:  
"What hath God wrought?"  
Truly the work is God's,  
but as truly you have  
been a devoted and faithful  
co-worker! And verily you  
have your reward in the  
sublime and ecstatic  
consciousness of having  
been an honored agent  
not a mere blind instrument,  
of accomplishing great and  
beneficent ~~results~~ <sup>results</sup>, fraught  
with incalculable good for  
all races and all coming  
ages. For not alone is  
the poor slave benefited  
when his chain is broken; the  
slave master, and all who  
stand by as consenting witnesses,  
(thereby involved in the guilt,  
and suffering and degradation  
of wrong doing), are ~~also~~ partakers  
of the benefits and blessings  
of humanization!

I look upon you, therefore,  
 as the World's Benefactor—  
 one of the true Prophets and  
 Priests of Humanity; you,  
 one of the uncounted things  
 of Merit and, before whom  
 all souls loyal to truth,  
 goodness, and duty do gladly  
 and willingly homage.

But I did not take my  
 pen up to indulge in  
 any offensive personal  
 reminiscence <sup>in mere</sup> or expressions  
 of proterulation. I rather  
 wished to say a few words  
 to you about the actual  
~~state~~ present, ~~pressing~~  
 momentous situation  
 of affairs in America.

As a British subject I am  
 conscious that I cannot  
 legitimately intrude my  
 opinions, or depreciation on  
 matters pertaining to the  
 Party Politics of America.  
 I have no right to say that  
 Mr Lincoln is or is not the  
 most fit and proper man  
 to be elected President. I  
 am not in a position to  
 judge that matter; and  
 any such expression would  
 be impertinent if not  
 offensive.

But as ~~our~~ <sup>one</sup> deeply  
 interested in all that  
 deeply affects humanity;  
 and as an abolitionist, ~~what~~

and most <sup>4</sup> sympathetically  
clive to whatever seems to  
involve the progress, the  
triumph and consummation  
of the sacred cause of  
universal freedom, I claim  
a right to form and express  
an opinion, in the moral  
arena. And though the  
opinion of one ~~so~~ <sup>but</sup> little  
known and <sup>quite</sup> unimportant  
~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> any  
weight or significance with  
you, I will venture to  
offer it, - because I feel  
certain that my individual  
opinion is in harmony  
with the thoughts and  
sentiments, the aspirations  
and convictions of the  
great bulk of the people  
of England who have made  
themselves <sup>at all</sup> acquainted  
with the real facts and the  
true bearings of the great  
conflict - social, moral,  
political and military,  
now going on in America -  
a contest in which the people  
of the free states are so heroically  
shedding their best blood.

Though I am by nature and  
conviction opposed to all  
war, and hate to see the  
day when Christian nations  
will bind themselves to some  
more rational and manly  
method of settling their  
disputes. Still I cannot

but recognize that human  
 governments, as constituted,  
 must rebel, and if with  
 impure and seditious-armed  
 and desperate Rebels who  
 seek to destroy the Nation's  
 life, by practically and forever  
 asserting the Right of  
 Secession and <sup>territorial</sup> disintegration,  
 and thus, not in the direction  
 of further liberty, of our  
 just object; but for the  
 hidden purpose of rewriting  
 afresh the galling fetters  
 that bind our enthralled  
 race; and the extension  
 of a system of Chattel Slavery  
 more and more oppressive  
 than the ever more done  
 on - the stigma, and curse  
 and execration of civilization!  
 It was the Southern Slaveholders,  
 led by the leading politicians of  
 the South in their interest  
 and confidence, who went  
 to war against their  
 own National Government,  
 with friendless recklessness  
 and idiotic folly. The Cabinet  
 of Lincoln did not want  
 war, did not desire war,  
 but did every thing it could,  
 in honor and fidelity to sworn  
 trusts, to stave off and avert  
 war. Its great weakness  
 was - that it did not  
 believe that the South  
 earnestly intended war!  
 It did not credit the

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The unanimous expression and  
infernal declaration of  
the slambitting Statesmen,  
and when Fort Sumter was  
fired upon and the national  
flag outraged, at that moment  
and by that act the national  
conscience - the sense of  
honor, dignity, duty and  
all that makes life holy  
and noble, was fired. It needed  
not a proclamation from  
Abraham Lincoln to call men to  
arms. Abraham Lincoln rather  
erred, <sup>in hesitancy and hesitancy,</sup> in proclaiming an  
inadequate view of the danger  
and necessity, by calling for  
only 70,000 volunteers for a  
brief term of enlistment.  
Had he called for twice the  
number and enrolled them  
for the war, he might have  
evinc'd a ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> Statesman  
ship and a profounder view  
of the crisis. The Southern  
leaders could not have  
done, under any circumstances,  
more than they have done. They  
have fought with the energy  
of desperation from the first  
moment, and they have  
performed prodigies of valor -  
I would say heroism, but that  
their cause is so base  
and brutal, that nothing  
but heroic can be predicted  
of it, without blasphemy <sup>against</sup>  
God and Humanity.

You will see from what I  
have said, that I throw



7  
~~all~~ the responsibility and guilt  
of the war - in its initiation  
and precipitation, on the  
Southern Rebels. Impartial  
History - the voice of God  
recorded by man, must  
ever make the Rebel leaders  
responsible for what they  
deliberately planned and so  
recklessly carried into effect.

But there are those who  
note slavery and complicity,  
but who yet say that the  
Federal Government must ever  
loyal people, though wholly  
in the right, and the Confederates  
wholly in the wrong - ought  
to have given way and  
allowed the South to secede!  
But these good people did  
not say that our Government  
ought to have allowed the  
raiders of India to  
prevail and go in peace;  
nor would they be ready to  
allow Ireland to secede,  
were the attempt again to  
be made. It is easy to buy  
other people's children; or  
to contemplate secession  
in another country. But  
every heart knows its  
own bitterness, and its  
own deep affections and  
loyal integrity. It seems  
to me that the principle of  
secession - as a second <sup>state</sup> right,

is as false, pernicious and  
 fatal as the doctrine of  
 the rights of murder and  
 suicide; and no nation  
 could <sup>long</sup> exist were such a  
 principle acknowledged and  
 acted upon. And I cannot  
 see in your National Constitution  
 or in the declaration of Rights  
 put forth by its founders, any  
 ground for the revolutionary  
 claims, <sup>and protest</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>of the</sup> ~~of the~~  
 secessionists. The right of  
 Revolution - when a People  
 are resolved and able to  
 throw off an odious tyranny  
 we all admit, but no one  
 can justify a Revolution  
 in favor of Slavery! And  
 that Slavery was the great  
 political and social abomination  
 for the conservation and extension  
 of which the South sought  
 to secede - no one can deny  
 who knows anything about  
 the facts and has any regard  
 for truth and decency.

My sympathy must ever be  
 with the cause - and those who  
 support the cause, of Freedom.  
 The issue, at first opened between  
 the Federal Govt and loyal  
 people on the one side, and the  
 so-called Confederate States on  
 the other side, - was one of mere  
 resistance to the extension of  
 Slavery. It was a just  
 issue so far as it went, and  
 so far as the North honestly

and adhered to ~~of~~ and it was seen  
accepted it. ~~There~~ it was seen  
by many that such an  
issue of the content was  
prolonged and both sides were  
in earnest about them  
up the entire question and  
lead to the satisfaction of  
Slavery, root and branch, in  
all the States. And as this  
to occur, obvious and inevitable  
the people of England - all  
whose opinions and sympathies  
are of great weight and  
worth, feel and cordially  
ranged themselves on the  
side of the Federal Govt and  
loyal people of the North.  
And none but those who  
prefer Slavery, however  
odious, to the triumph of popular  
government, <sup>when they know</sup> of the  
facts and merit of the  
struggle, can or do take  
sides with the Southern  
Slaveholders confidence.  
I have attended many scores  
of public meetings, in our  
largest halls and have always  
found the people ready to  
respond with heart and hand,  
to the free claims of the  
loyal and free citizens of  
the North, and to manifest  
their intense abhorrence of  
the cause of the Southern  
traitors and rebels against  
our just and terrificant <sup>institutions</sup>  
government - second to  
none in the world, except  
in so far as it had tolerated Slavery.

I hope you will do your best to convince the people of America that this is the real attitude of the people of England - whatever the London Times, <sup>Mr. A. A. Mackintosh</sup> or the Southern sympathizers who have invested in Confederate Cottons and Black and Revenue may say or write to the contrary notwithstanding. These men can make a great noise and stir in the press, but they cannot - they dare not meet the objections of Union and Conciliation on the open public platform. They have had lectures here, but have never dared to hold a public meeting in our great Free Trade Hall. What will hold 7000 people. One of their <sup>least scrupulous</sup> ~~most scrupulous~~ <sup>objectionable</sup> ~~objectionable~~ <sup>objectionable</sup> lecturers tried a ~~series of~~ <sup>series of</sup> Lectures on <sup>the</sup> ~~mechanics~~ <sup>mechanics</sup> ~~Institution~~ <sup>Institution</sup> but was so taken aback by the feeling of his audience that he did not repeat the experiment there. He never said the word "experiment" in our Court or language but met with a more decided bluff than so that he had to content himself by selling a few copies of his lecture in print, instead of delivering it to those who had paid their money for admission to the Hall. This objection was not justly heeded, it was

you know something no  
 doubt; and who had the  
 audacity to denounce you  
 and those who are acting  
 with you as 'infidels';  
 and as wild, reckless men  
 who are causing all the  
 evil that he could do  
 men so much below!

But Joseph <sup>soon after</sup> found that the  
 course of the South did  
 not pay well enough to  
 command his services  
 and advocacy; and he has <sup>therefore</sup>  
 gone back to <sup>one</sup> of his  
 old religious circles, and  
 is not now heard of in  
 the arena of politics or  
 secular questions. In fact,  
 his meetings and preachings  
 afford him a more confidential  
 sphere of operations - no doubt  
 no stronger proof could be  
 given to those who know the  
<sup>sanctity of</sup> <sup>of</sup> this singular man, that  
 the Southern cause here is  
 hopeless, as a field for agitation,  
 than that he so soon  
 abandoned his mission  
 operations in behalf of the  
 slaveholder's confidence.  
 No man of real mark, or  
 high character has yet come  
 out before the public in his  
 own name and person to  
 advocate the cause of the  
 South - out and out. Joseph  
 Becher, J. A. Rockwell and  
 James Spence are the three  
 most notable and consistent  
 champions they have formed.

And all that need be said of  
 these <sup>men</sup> is, that their  
 advocacy would ~~be~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>substance</sup>  
 any really good and noble  
 cause in the estimation  
 of them who look down  
 them. While on the other  
 hand, the cause of the Free  
 North has been advocated,  
 without fee or bribe, or hope  
 of reward, by scores and  
 hundreds of the noblest, purest  
 and most patriotic of our  
 public men, <sup>including</sup> the prominent  
 thinkers and workers in  
 the cause of human progress  
 and universal liberty. I need  
 not mention to you the  
 well known names of  
 Richard Cobden, John Bright  
 and a score of others in the  
 senatorial phalanx, who  
 have nobly advocated the  
 good cause. You are also  
 familiar with the names  
 of J. S. Mill, <sup>Professor</sup> F. D. Newman, J. E. Cairnes,  
 Gordon Smith and <sup>many</sup> others who  
 pens and voices have pleaded  
 the cause of freedom. But  
 there are scores and hundreds  
 who are like minded, and  
 who are constantly pleading  
 the same cause, though in  
 more restricted areas. I could  
 pen many and off hand  
 write down the names of  
 many scores, known to myself,  
 who are able and eloquent,  
 and entirely disinterested  
 advocates of the cause of the  
 North. I wish your people could  
 know <sup>all</sup> this - or could be  
 induced to believe it; they would

They be better able to bear with  
 the vile Accusations that are  
 hurled at them from the  
 baser portions of our  
 press and public men  
 who have no true principle,  
 except as it increases  
 their power to uphold some  
 unjust form of Oppression  
 or robbery.

But I must conclude  
 this already too extended  
 communication. Though  
 I have not said several  
 things I intended or wished  
 to say when I commenced.  
 I will try and write you  
 again ere long.

In the meantime I  
 pray God to bless you,  
 and prosper all the  
 work you are engaged in  
 for Truth, Justice and  
 Freedom.

Believe me ever most  
 truly your devoted friend  
 Thos. H. Barker

P.S. You will receive  
 with this an early copy of  
 a Peace Address proposing  
 to emanate from the People  
 of Great Britain and Ireland  
 to the People of the United  
 States. Be assured that

The People of this country  
do not endorse anything  
so silly, so one sided and  
insulting to the friends  
of Freedom. I expect  
the People send a Peace  
message it will be  
seen to contain an  
earnest Protest against  
concession to a  
Compromise with  
Slavery. Be assured  
of this. The document  
I now refer to emanates  
from the Southern Club  
here. They do not  
authenticate it, because  
they know that their  
endorsement or imprimatur  
would not enhance  
its moral claims -  
either on your side of  
the water or on this  
side. J. W. S.

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